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(54) **CORRELATION ID FOR LOCAL IP ACCESS**

(75) Inventors: **Saso Stojanovski**, Paris (FR); **Arnaud Vedrine**, Paris (FR)

(73) Assignee: **LG Electronics Inc.**, Seoul (KR)

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H04L 12/66 (2006.01)

H04W 8/26 (2009.01)

H04W 84/04 (2009.01)

H04W 88/16 (2009.01)

H04W 92/04 (2009.01)

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CPC **H04L 12/66** (2013.01); **H04W 8/26** (2013.01); **H04W 84/045** (2013.01); **H04W 88/16** (2013.01); **H04W 92/04** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — John Blanton

Assistant Examiner — Thinh Tran

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

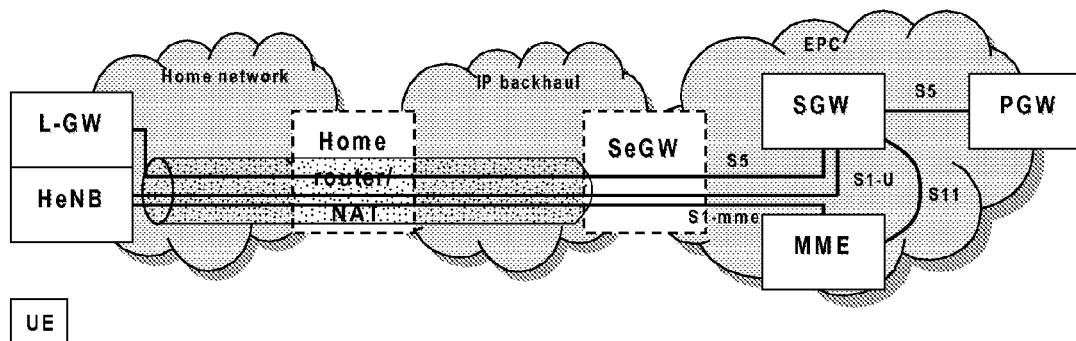
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ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a home cellular base station (HeNB), comprising a radio interface (RI), to communicate with a user equipment (UE), a local interface (LI), to communicate with a local gateway (L-GW) providing access to a local IP network, a user plane interface (S1-U), to communicate with a serving gateway (SGW), and a control plane interface (S1-MME), to communicate with a control node (MME). The home cellular base station (HeNB) further comprises a selection module (SelMod) set to obtain a first correlation ID for enabling a direct user plane path between the home cellular base station (HeNB) and the local gateway (L-GW), the first correlation ID being obtained via the control plane interface (S1-MME) upon each establishment of a bearer providing access to the local IP network.

The invention also relates to a control node (MME), to a home subscriber server (HSS), to a direct path enablement method, and to a PDN management method.

8 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets



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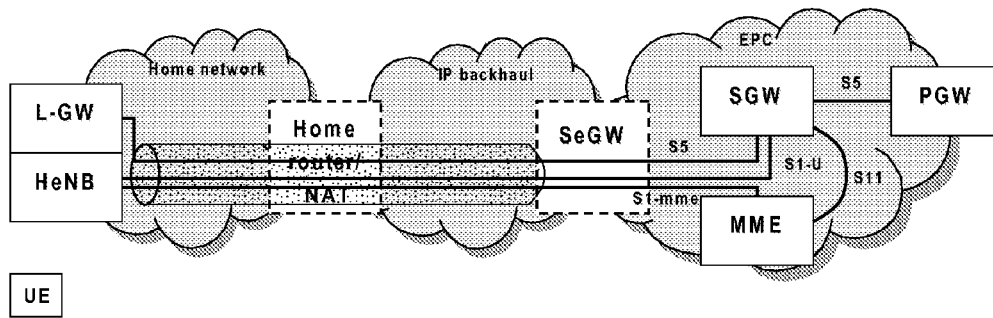


FIG. 1

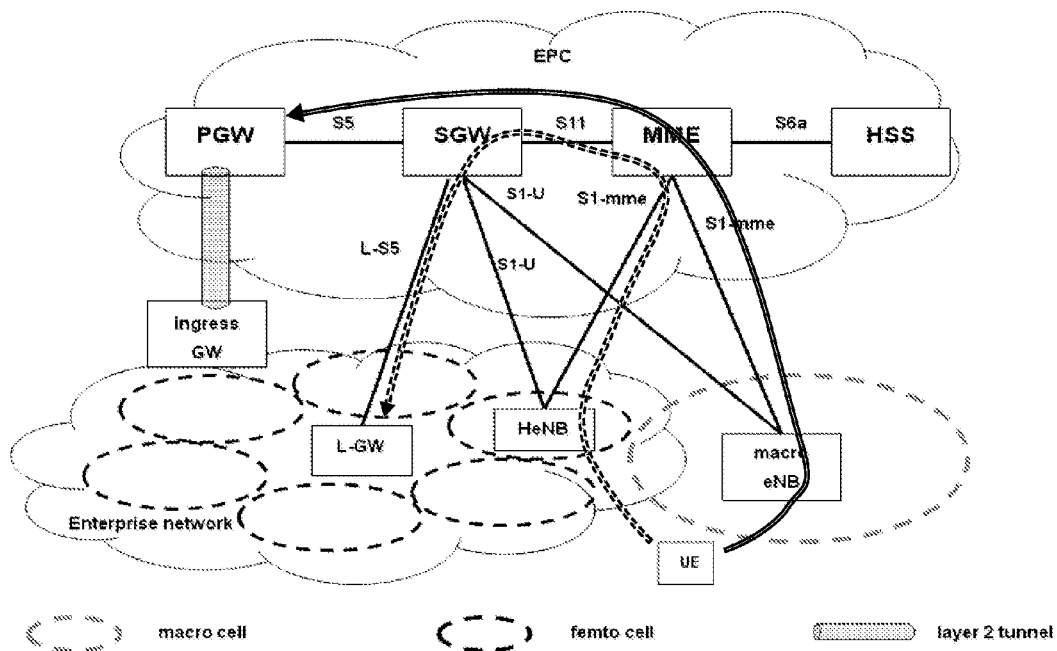


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

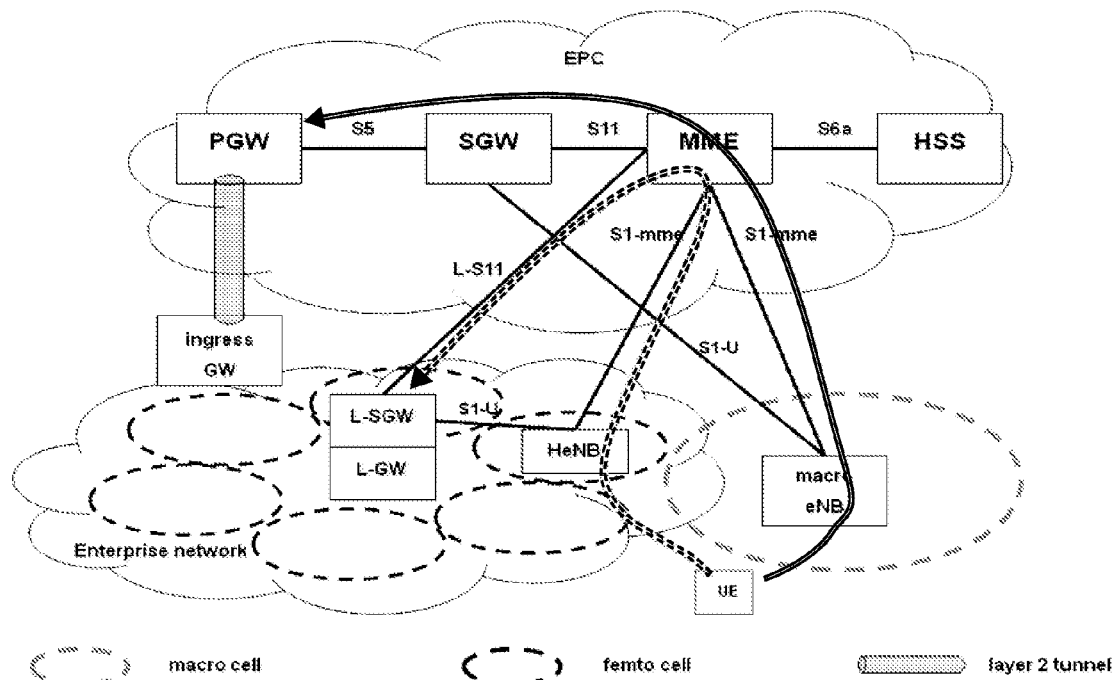
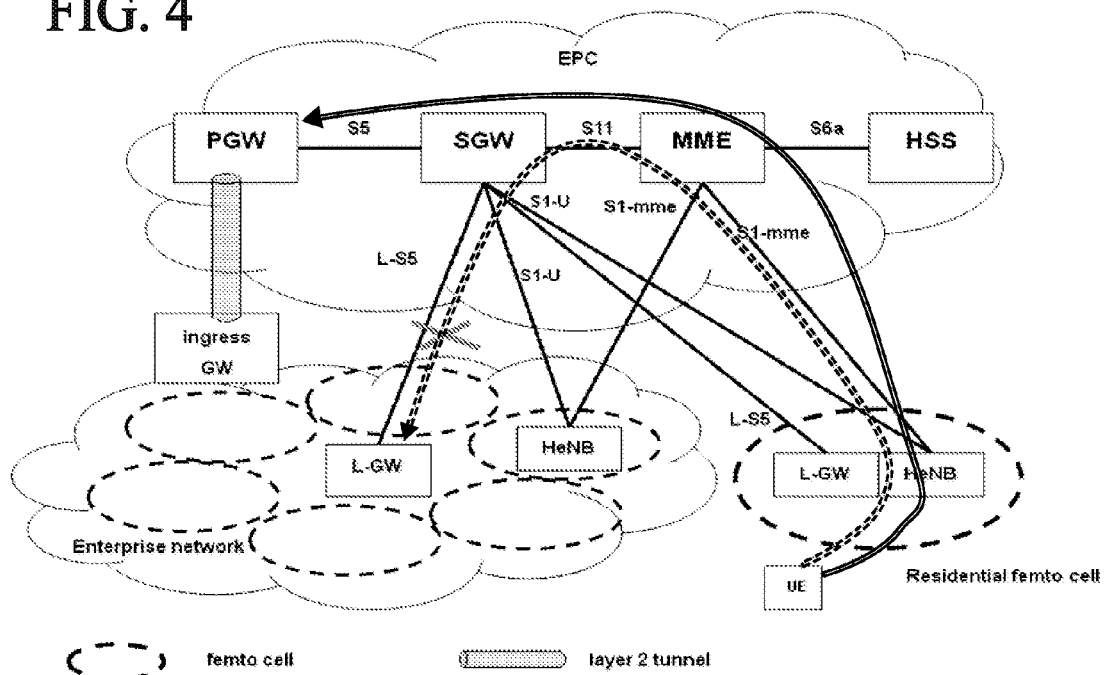


FIG. 4



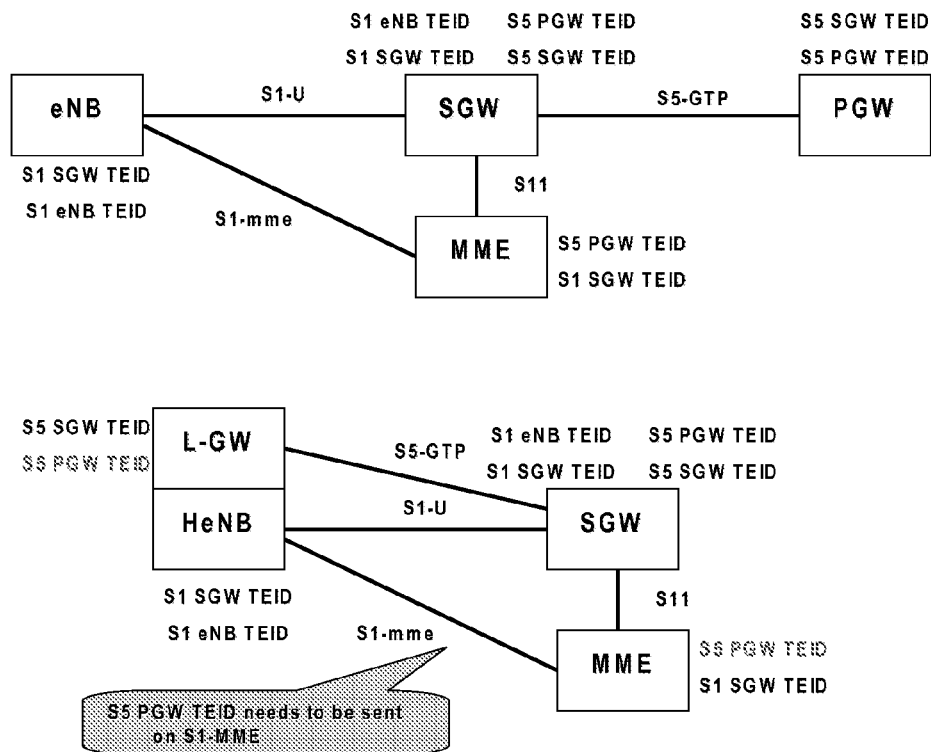


FIG. 5

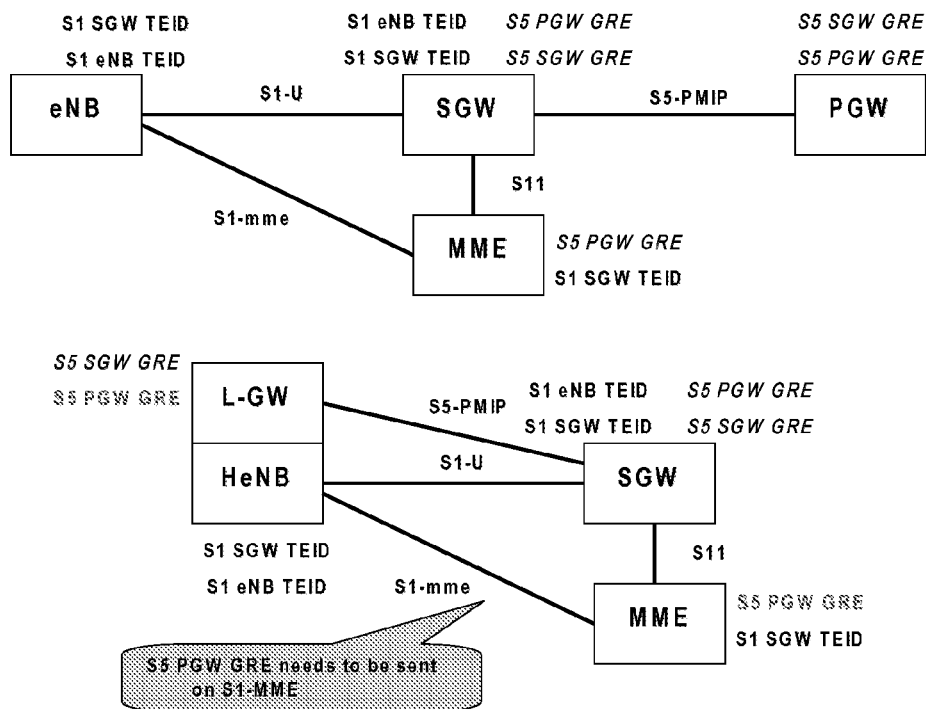


FIG. 6

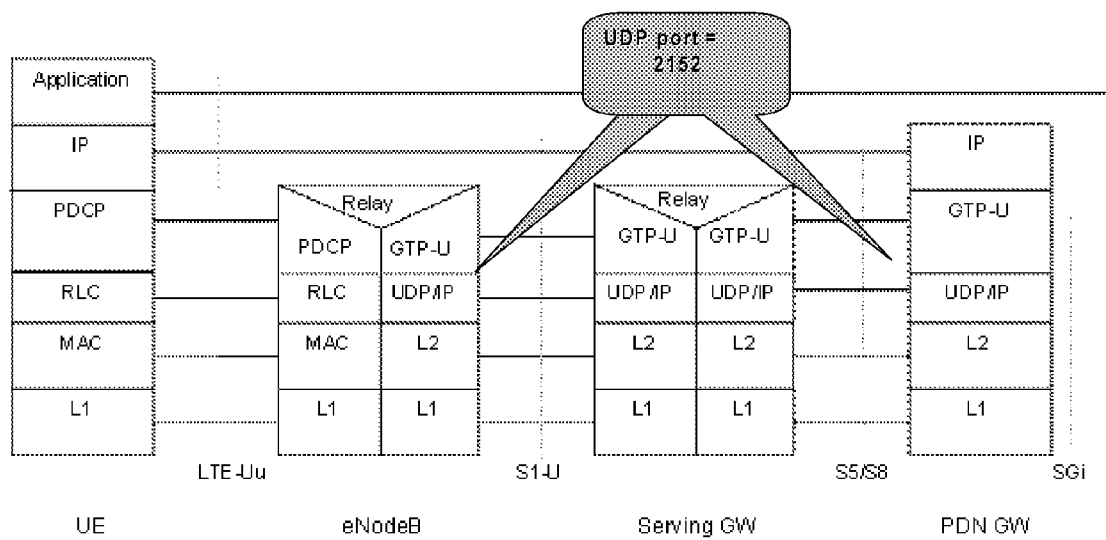


FIG. 7

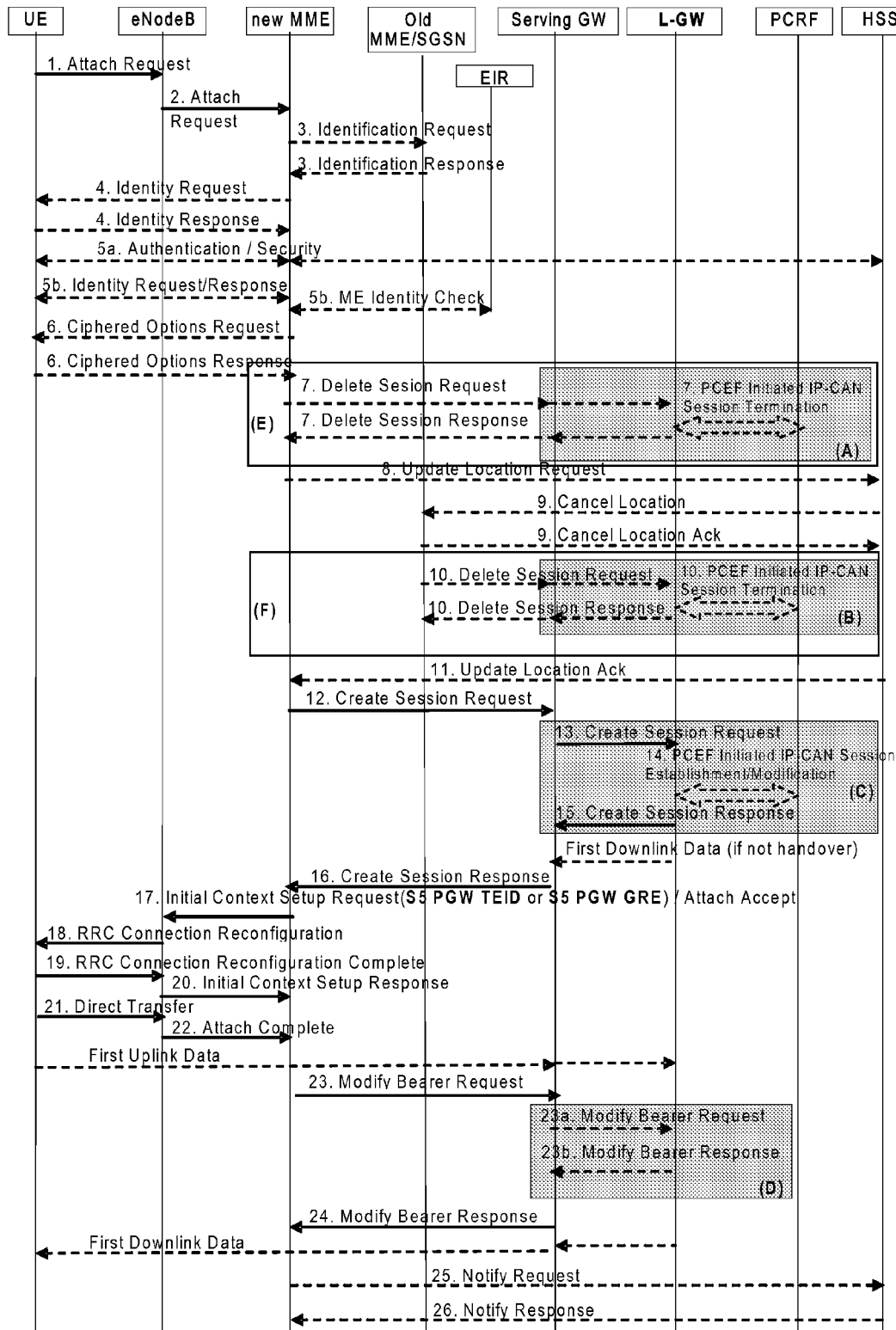


FIG. 8

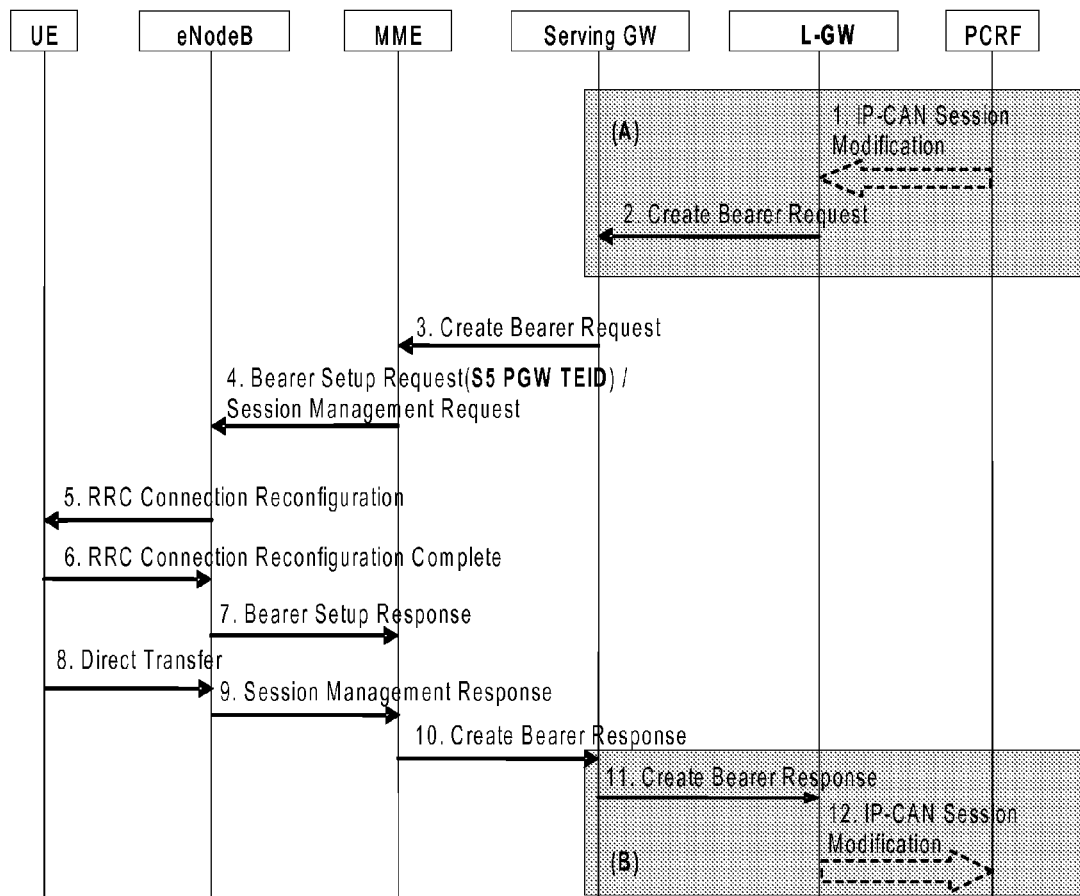


FIG. 9

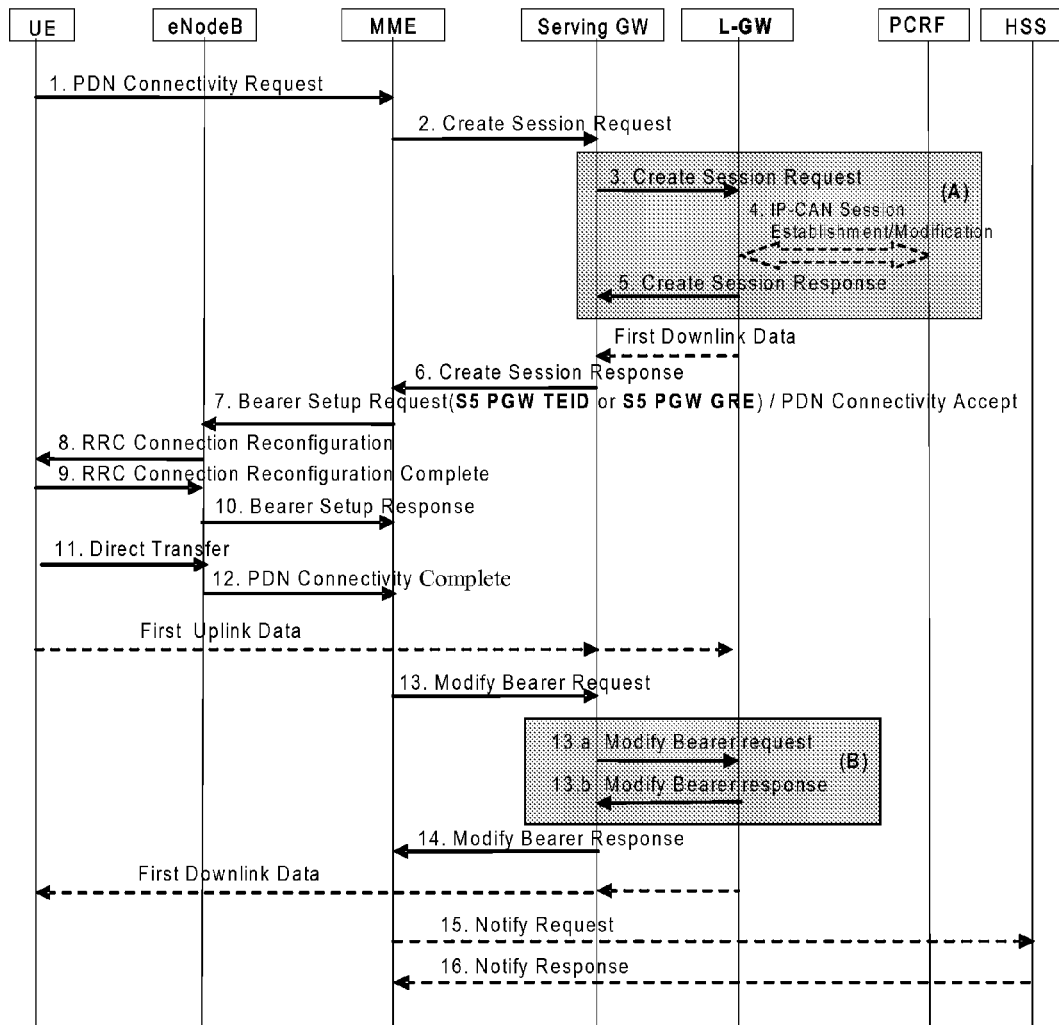


FIG. 10

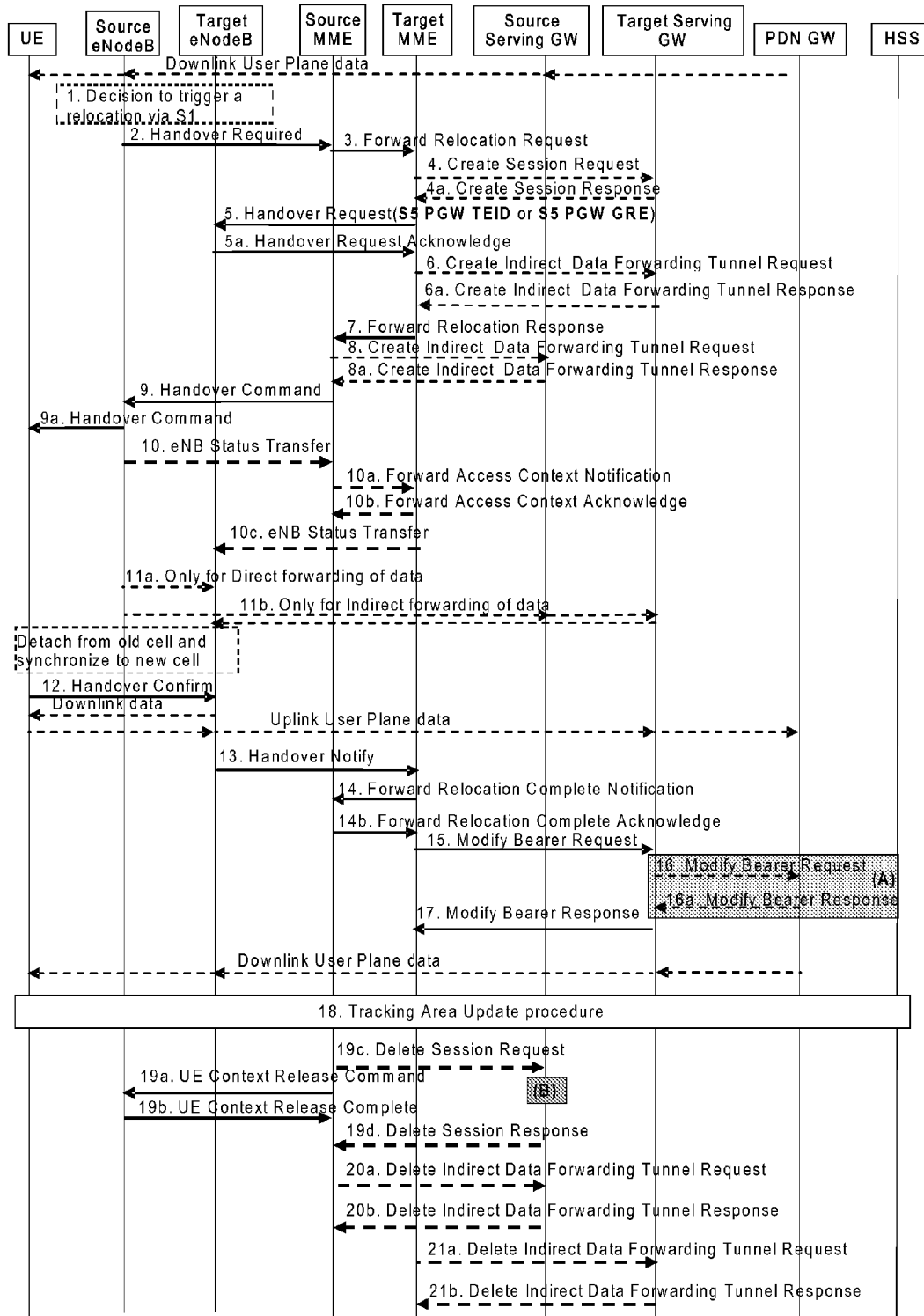


FIG. 11

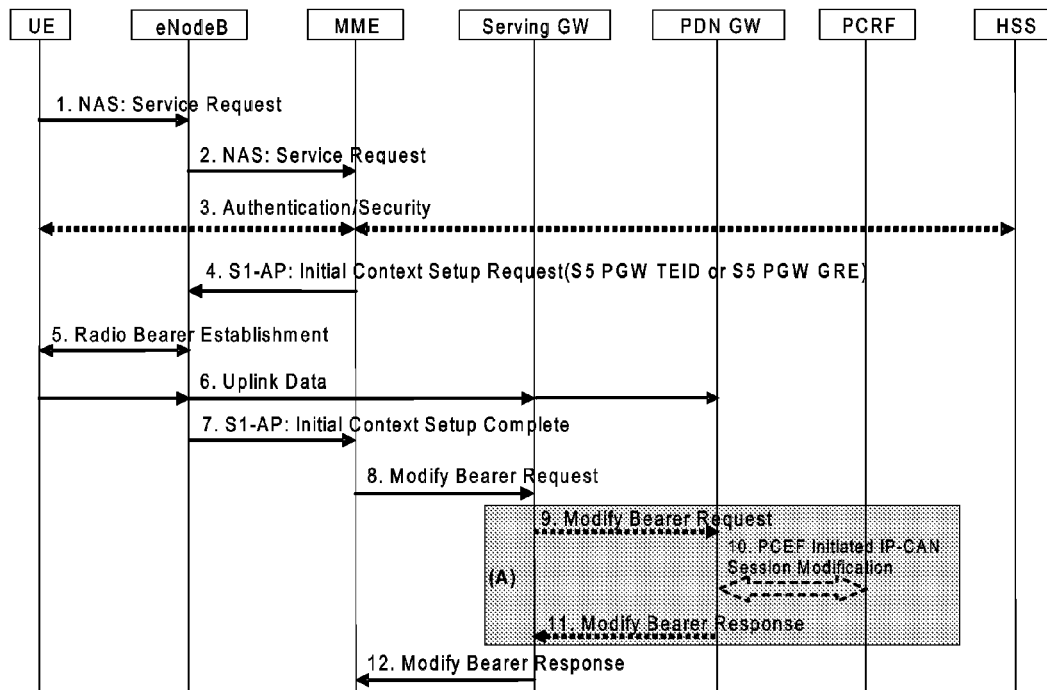


FIG. 12

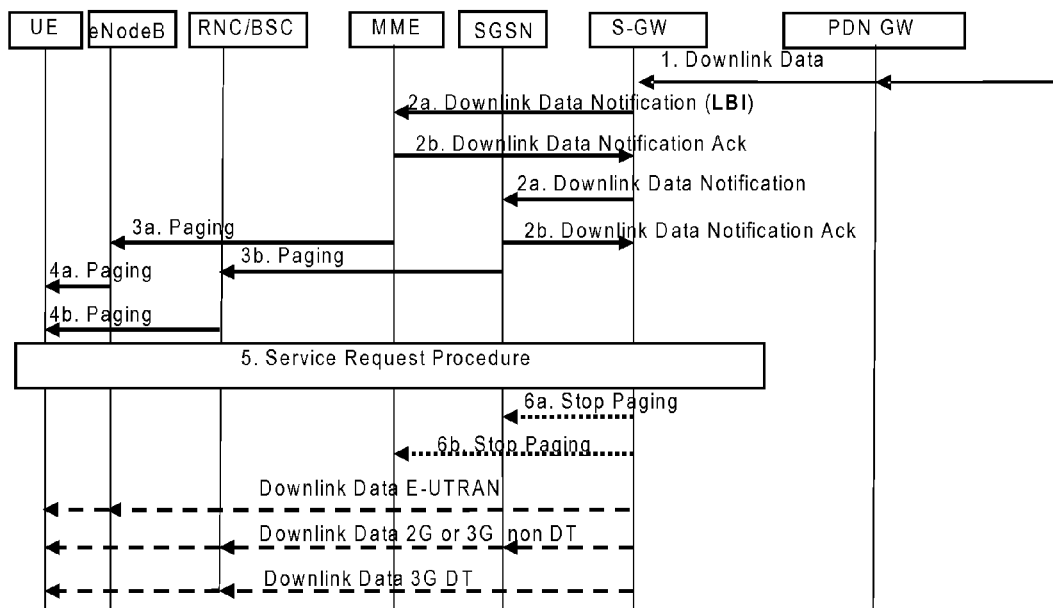


FIG. 13

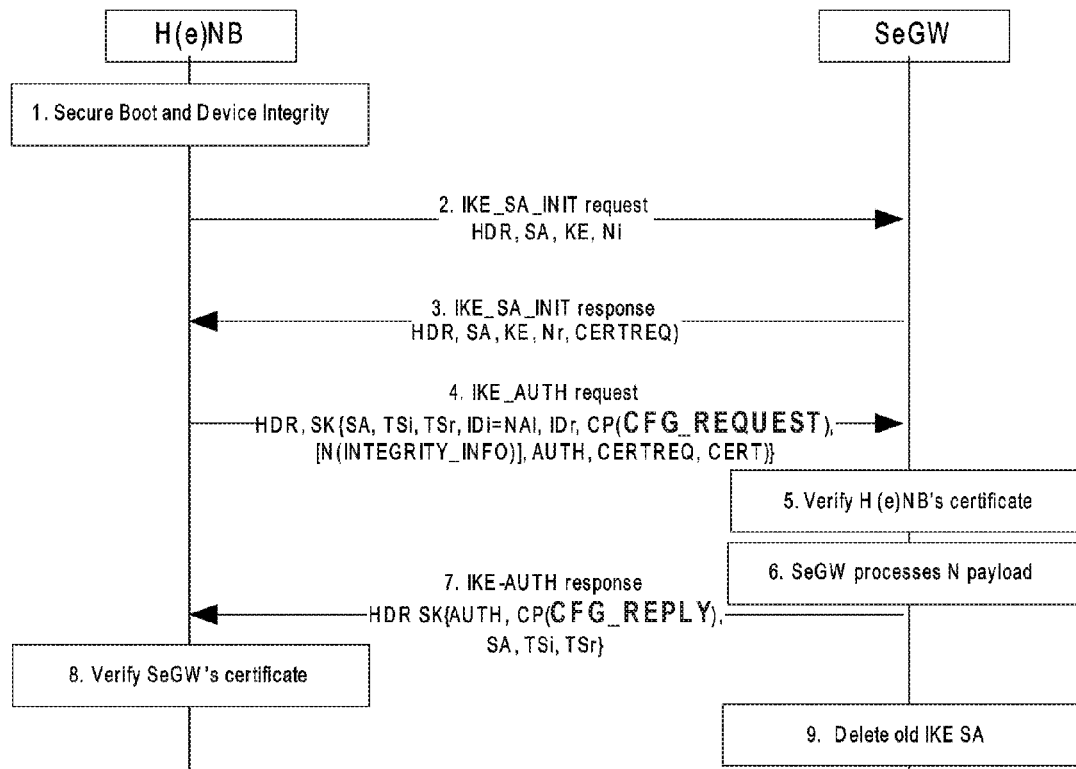


FIG. 14

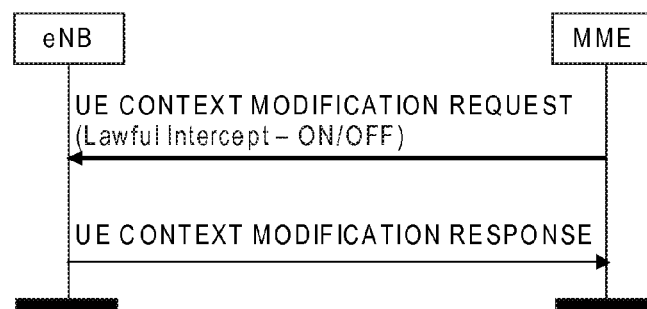


FIG. 15

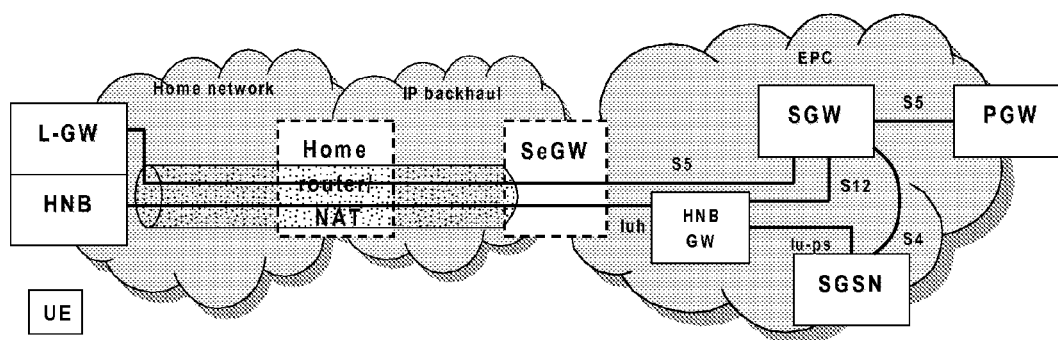


FIG. 16

CORRELATION ID FOR LOCAL IP ACCESS**RELATED APPLICATION**

This application claims priority from U.S. provisional application Nos. 61/257,434 filed on Nov. 2, 2009, 61/257,436 filed on Nov. 2, 2009, 61/257,439 filed on Nov. 2, 2009, 61/257,442 filed on Nov. 2, 2009, 61/359,352 filed on 29 Jun. 2010 and 61/375,016 filed on 18 Aug. 2010.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention**

The invention relates to local IP access, also known as LIPA. LIPA is a feature of mobile communication networks, which was introduced in Release-10 of 3GPP (see in particular section 5.7.1 of 3GPP TS 22.220 V10.0.0, 2009-09).

2. Description of the Related Art

With the progressive convergence of the Internet world and of the telecommunications world, most services that are offered on the Internet become available on mobile phones, and conversely voice services become available through the Internet (Voice over IP). In addition, fixed-mobile convergence aims at proposing single communication devices able to connect both to a cellular network (e.g. when travelling) and to a local network (such as a home network, when at home, or a corporate network, or a hotspot). While fixed-mobile convergence is not yet a widespread reality, many communication devices already have both a radio interface to connect to cellular networks, and another radio interface to connect to a local network. Most often the two radio interfaces are used independently though (i.e. the user selects manually, either explicitly or implicitly, which radio technology he wants to use). Having two radio interfaces forces the communication device to embed two different radio technologies (e.g. WLAN interface and cellular radio interface), which is more expensive, takes more space (while size and weight are important characteristics), and consumes a lot of energy since two radio interfaces need to be powered, which reduces the autonomy of the communication device (and also reduces battery life).

Cellular networks are very convenient because they offer an extremely broad coverage (for example a GSM user can typically make phone calls from almost anywhere in the world). However, their bandwidth is typically rather low compared to the bandwidth offered to users of local networks (which are typically connected to the Internet through rather high speed connections such as fiber, DSL or cable, for home networks). In addition, they are in general more expensive to use. Despite their extensive coverage, cellular networks are not always available, for example they are not available in certain remote locations (such as certain rural areas, or certain very small villages), or indoor locations not reachable by the cellular network's signals (basements, rooms surrounded by several layers of walls, etc.).

Small cellular base stations called femtocells can be used to mitigate the unavailability of cellular networks, as long as an alternate network access (typically a wired network) is available. Femtocells can typically be simple devices installed by end users themselves. Femtocells behave like a cellular network with respect to communication devices (which can use their regular cellular network radio interface to communicate with them), and connect to a cellular network operator's core network through the alternate network access (such as Internet access via fiber, DSL or cable subscriptions). Femtocells can be developed for any types of cellular networks technologies, for example WCDMA, GSM,

CDMA2000, TD-SCDMA, WiMAX or LTE technologies. The 3GPP refers to 3G femtocells as Home Node Bs (HNBs), and in LTE the proper terminology for a femtocell is Home eNode B (HeNB). Femtocells are in fact "home" cellular base stations.

In the context of fixed-mobile convergence of voice services, the use of femtocells is an advantageous alternative to the embedding of two different radio technologies in a communication device, since the communication device becomes simpler to implement, can be smaller, lighter, cheaper, and have a better battery autonomy.

LIPA goes one step further and aims at providing access from a communication device to a home-based network (for any kind of IP based services, not only for voice) through a femtocell. A home-based network is in fact any kind of local network (e.g. it can be in a residential or corporate environment, or a public hotspot), i.e. it is not necessarily a network in the home of an individual (the term "home" has to be understood in a broad sense, the same applies to other expressions such as "home" cellular base station).

Although an initial specification of LIPA is already available, LIPA is still being specified as not all issues have been addressed. LIPA is therefore the subject of standardization efforts at 3GPP. Many aspects of LIPA are still expressed as goals to be achieved, without indications on how to achieve these goals.

One class of LIPA solutions that are currently under study in 3GPP is referred to as the "solutions relying on Local Packet Data Network (PDN) connection". With this type of solutions there are several open issues.

The technical report 3GPP[®]TR[®]23.8xy v0.2.0 ("Local IP Access and Selected IP Traffic Offload") is a study of architectural solutions for LIPA to the home-based network from a femtocell (Home NodeB or Home eNodeB), as well as a study of architectural solutions for Selected IP Traffic Offload (SIPTO) for both femtocells and macrocells. The number 23.8xy was a temporary name for the technical report on LIPA when the first patent application (U.S. 61/375,016) which priority is claimed in the present patent application was filed (Nov. 2, 2009). It was later assigned a permanent TR number by the 3GPP administration (TR 23.829). All versions of this document are stored under the permanent name on the 3GPP web site. TR[®]23.829 v0.2.0 was updated by technical contributions submitted to 3GPP by the inventors of the present invention, after the priority date of the present application. The LIPA solutions under study in this technical report when the first priority application was filed can be broadly summarized in two categories. The first one relates to solutions based on traffic breakout performed within H(e)NB using a local PDN connection, and the second one relates to solutions relying on a NAT (Network Address Translation) device.

The first category is of particular interest in the context of the invention. The technical report was still in study phase and did not contain any full-blown architecture figure agreed in the standard at the priority date of the present application. Instead it contained a list of architectural requirements, architectural principles and a list of open issues and proposed solutions to such issues. FIG.[°]1 highlights some of the possible architecture requirements for a LIPA solution for HeNB using a local PDN connection according to the technical report.

The following are possible LIPA requirements according to FIG.[°]1. A Local PDN Gateway (L-GW) function is collocated with the HeNB (for example it can be embedded in the HeNB, or each function can be embedded in a corresponding device, both devices being in the same geographical loca-

tion). The local PDN Gateway provides direct IP access to the home-based IP network. The Mobility Management Entity (MME) and Serving Gateway (SGW) nodes are located in the operator's Evolved Packet Core (EPC). A Security Gateway (SeGW) node is located at the edge of the operator's core network; its role is to maintain a secure association with the HeNB across the IP backhaul network that is typically owned by a different provider and is therefore considered insecure. A Home router (which typically behaves as a NAT device) is located at the boundary of the home-based IP network and the IP backhaul network, as typically found in DSL or cable access deployments today. It is also possible to have an element (optional), depicted in FIG. 1 consisting of an external PDN Gateway (PGW) located in the operator's core network. This element may be used when the user needs to access services provided by the operator, in parallel to accessing the home-based network.

3GPP TR 23.8xy v0.2.0 identifies the following open issues with the type of architectures described above.

One issue that needed to be solved in this context included the definition of signaling information needed for establishment of optimal data path (this is referred to as "optimal routing" or "optimized routing information issue"). More particularly, for active UEs, there was a need to find mechanisms to optimize the routing of the EPS/UMTS bearers used for LIPA traffic, allowing the user plane to bypass the Core SGW and SGSN. What was still unanswered was in particular the type of information that can be used by the HeNB and the L-GW in order to establish the direct path ("optimized routing information issue"). Specifically, for a specific UE, the kind of information that could be used by the HeNB to discriminate between uplink packets destined to the home-based network (i.e. the L-GW) and uplink packets destined to the external PGW was unknown. For a specific UE, the kind of information to be used by the HeNB to map the downlink packets received from the L-GW on the appropriate Radio Bearers was also unknown.

Another issue lies in the fact that the proposed solution is expected to work when the local breakout point (L-GW) is located in a private address domain, e.g. behind a NAT gateway (this is referred to as the "NAT issue", or "operation behind a NAT device").

How to assist the backhaul operator to perform legal intercept is another issue (referred to as the "Lawful Intercept issue").

How paging works in this architecture was still an open issue, as per the following excerpt from TR 23.8xy: "it is FFS whether IDLE mode downlink packet buffering and initiation of network triggered service request procedure should be local to the H(e)NB, leading to two SGWs per UE (one in Core Network and one in H(e)NB subsystem or transport backhaul network), which is not in line with current TS 23.401 architecture principles, or whether this function should be in the Core Network".

Starting from Release 99, the 3GPP specifications make provisions for access to a private enterprise network (intranet) from any macro cell. This is often referred to as network-based VPN access.

With LIPA it becomes possible to access the enterprise network from a femtocell, in a way that all traffic bound to/from the enterprise network is routed locally, without leaving the enterprise.

A major difference between the macro versus femto scenarios resides in the Gateway that represents the ingress point to the intranet. In the macro scenario the terminal establishes a Packet Data Network (PDN) connection to a PDN Gateway (PGW) that is part of the operator's Evolved Packet Core

(EPC) and has pre-established a layer 2 tunnel to an ingress point in the intranet. In contrast, in the femtocell scenario the terminal establishes a connection to a Local Gateway (L-GW) residing inside the enterprise network.

Assuming that the same Access Point Name (APN) is used to access the enterprise network in both cases, some additional information is required in order to assist the EPC in selecting the right gateway, depending on whether the terminal is establishing the connection from the enterprise's femtocell or from somewhere else.

FIG. 2 depicts a scenario where the UE can access the Enterprise network via either a macro cell (eNodeB-eNB) or a femto cell (Home eNodeB-HeNB).

For VPN access via a macro cell the signaling path for PDN connection establishment is illustrated with an arrow going from the UE to the PGW (with two solid lines). Based on the PDN connection request received from UE, the Mobility Management Entity (MME) checks the APN requested by UE against its subscription record in the HSS, as described in 3GPP TS 23.401 ("Evolved Packet Core for 3GPP access"). If the UE is authorized to access the requested APN, the MME performs PGW selection relying on DNS resolution of the APN-FQDN i.e. a Fully Qualified Domain Name that is constructed with the APN substring, as specified in 3GPP TS 23.003 ("Numbering, Addressing and Identification") and 3GPP TS 29.303 ("Domain Name System Procedures; Stage 3").

For instance, if the APN for VPN access is "companyAB-Cvpn", the corresponding APN-FQDN, used for DNS resolution, will typically be constructed as: "companyABCvpn.epc.mnc015.mcc234.3gppnetwork.org".

In contrast, for enterprise access via LIPA, the signaling path for PDN connection establishment is depicted with an arrow going from the UE to the L-GW (with two dotted lines). In this case the MME would need to override the usual DNS resolution based on APN-FQDN and perform L-GW selection based on information other than, or in addition to, the APN.

At the time the first priority application was filed, there were two alternatives for L-GW selection described in 3GPP TR 23.829 v1.1.0 ("LIPA and SIPTO"), but there was no agreement yet which one should be standardized. The first proposal is to have the L-GW address signaled from the RAN (Radio Access Network, i.e. from the HeNB). The other proposal is to use DNS based resolution with an FQDN that contains the CSG identifier of the femtocell.

For sake of simplification, FIG. 2 makes the assumption that the Serving Gateway (SGW) is located outside of the Enterprise network, even for LIPA access. While this is a possibility, it is more likely that for LIPA access the system would select a SGW that resides inside the Enterprise network (L-SGW in FIG. 3) and is collocated with the L-GW, as depicted in FIG. 3.

The current solution is problematic when the same APN may be used to access the Enterprise network via both a macrocell and a femtocell. Indeed, the Mobility Management Entity (MME), which performs the PGW/LGW selection, does not know which gateway to select since it depends on whether the terminal is requesting PDN connection establishment from the Enterprise femtocell or from somewhere else. The APN may be identified as being "LIPA only", "LIPA prohibited", or "LIPA conditional", but without regard to the CSG from which the PDN connection request originates.

The MME is aware whether the terminal is inside a femtocell, thanks to the CSG ID that is provided by the RAN in all UE-associated signaling messages. However, the user's subscription record in the HSS (at the time the first priority

application was filed) provides no information about possible linkage between the requested APN and the CSG ID of the femtocell where the UE is currently residing.

If the MME selected the Enterprise L-GW whenever the UE requests the Enterprise APN from a femtocell, this would lead to the error case depicted in FIG. 4. Namely, consider the scenario where the user requests a PDN connection to the Enterprise APN via its home (residential) femtocell. In this

case the MME must not select the L-GW residing in the Enterprise network (arrow going from the UE to the L-GW, with two dotted lines), instead it must select the PGW (arrow going from the UE to the PGW, with two solid lines), in the same manner as if the UE were in a macrocell.

Table 5.7.1-1 of 3GPP TS 23.401, which describes certain HSS data, is also useful for the understanding of the invention, and is reproduced below:

Field	Description
IMSI	IMSI is the main reference key.
MSISDN	The basic MSISDN of the UE (Presence of MSISDN is optional).
IMEI/IMEISV	International Mobile Equipment Identity - Software Version Number
MME Identity	The Identity of the MME currently serving this MS.
MME Capabilities	Indicates the capabilities of the MME with respect to core functionality e.g. regional access restrictions.
MS PS Purged from EPS	Indicates that the EMM and ESM contexts of the UE are deleted from the MME.
ODB parameters	Indicates that the status of the operator determined barring
Access Restriction	Indicates the access restriction subscription information.
EPS Subscribed Charging Characteristics	The charging characteristics for the MS, e.g. normal, prepaid, flat-rate, and/or hot billing subscription.
Trace Reference	Identifies a record or a collection of records for a particular trace.
Trace Type	Indicates the type of trace, e.g. HSS trace, and/or MME/ Serving GW/PDN GW trace.
OMC Identity	Identifies the OMC that shall receive the trace record(s).
Subscribed-UE-AMBR	The Maximum Aggregated uplink and downlink MBRs to be shared across all Non-GBR bearers according to the subscription of the user.
APN-OI Replacement	Indicates the domain name to replace the APN OI when constructing the PDN GW FQDN upon which to perform DNS queries. This replacement applies for all the APNs in the subscriber's profile.
RFSP Index	An index to specific RRM configuration in the E-UTRAN
URRP-MME	UE Reachability Request Parameter indicating that UE activity notification from MME has been requested by the HSS.
CSG Subscription Data	The CSG Subscription Data is a list of CSG IDs per PLMN and for each CSG ID optionally an associated expiration date which indicates the point in time when the subscription to the CSG ID expires; an absent expiration date indicates unlimited subscription.
Each subscription profile contains one or more PDN subscription contexts:	
Context Identifier	Index of the PDN subscription context.
PDN Address	Indicates subscribed IP address(es).
PDN Type	Indicates the subscribed PDN Type (IPv4, IPv6, IPv4v6)
APN-OI Replacement	APN level APN-OI Replacement which has same role as UE level APN-OI Replacement but with higher priority than UE level APN-OI Replacement. This is an optional parameter. When available, it shall be used to construct the PDN GW FQDN instead of UE level APN-OI Replacement.
Access Point Name (APN)	A label according to DNS naming conventions describing the access point to the packet data network (or a wildcard) (NOTE 6).
EPS subscribed QoS profile	The bearer level QoS parameter values for that APN's default bearer (QCI and ARP) (see clause 4.7.3).
Subscribed-APN-AMBR	The maximum aggregated uplink and downlink MBRs to be shared across all Non-GBR bearers, which are established for this APN.
EPS PDN Subscribed Charging Characteristics	The charging characteristics of this PDN Subscribed context for the MS, e.g. normal, prepaid, flat-rate, and/or hot billing subscription. The charging characteristics is associated with this APN.
VPLMN Address Allowed	Specifies whether for this APN the UE is allowed to use the PDN GW in the domain of the HPLMN only, or additionally the PDN GW in the domain of the VPLMN.
PDN GW identity	The identity of the PDN GW used for this APN. The PDN GW identity may be either an FQDN or an IP address. The PDN GW identity refers to a specific PDN GW.
PDN GW Allocation Type	Indicates whether the PDN GW is statically allocated or dynamically selected by other nodes. A statically allocated PDN GW is not changed during PDN GW selection.

Field	Description
PLMN of PDN GW	Identifies the PLMN in which the dynamically selected PDN GW is located.
Homogenous Support of IMS Over PS Sessions for MME	Indicates whether or not "IMS Voice over PS Sessions" is supported homogeneously in all TAs in the serving MME.
List of APN - PDN GW ID relations (for PDN subscription context with wildcard APN):	
APN - P-GW relation #n	The APN and the identity of the dynamically allocated PDN GW of a PDN connection that is authorised by the PDN subscription context with the wildcard APN. The PDN GW identity may be either an FQDN or an IP address. The PDN GW identity refers to a specific PDN GW.

The invention seeks to improve the situation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates in particular to a home cellular base station (Home eNodeB in the LTE environment), comprising a radio interface, to communicate with a user equipment (such as a cellular phone), a local interface, to communicate with a local gateway providing access to a local IP network, a user plane interface, to communicate with a serving gateway, and a control plane interface, to communicate with a control node. The home cellular base station further comprises a selection module set to obtain a first correlation ID for enabling a direct user plane path between the home cellular base station and the local gateway, the first correlation ID being obtained via the control plane interface upon each establishment of a bearer providing access to the local IP network. The user plane deals with transport of actual user data, while the control plane consists of protocols for control and support of the user plane functions (it deals in particular with signaling in order to establish a communication). In the LTE context, the control plane is defined in section 5.1.1 of 3GPP TS 23.401 V10.0.0. This home cellular base station is advantageous, because it enables an improved routing at the home cellular base station in a LIPA context. While the "trombone" path is needed anyway in the first place (when establishing the communication), once the communication is set up, the trombone path is no longer used, which is advantageous as the user plane packets do not need to travel back and forth through the trombone.

According to a possible embodiment, the selection module of the home cellular base station is set, upon reception of a downlink IP packet on the local interface along with a second correlation ID, to match the first correlation ID with the second correlation ID, in order to determine the radio bearer on which to transmit the downlink IP packet to the user equipment through the radio interface. The first correlation ID is typically received once for all during the establishment of the communication, while the second correlation ID is included in each packet, and enables the matching of correlation IDs in order to route the packet properly. The packet is a downlink packet, i.e. a packet which destination is the user equipment (as opposed to uplink packets which originate from the user equipment). There are potentially many radio bearers from the home cellular base station to the user equipment. This embodiment enables the selection of the proper bearer. The embodiment is also advantageous because it does not require any complex function such as DL-TFT (downlink traffic flow template) which is a kind of packet filter, thanks to the simple correlation ID. Such complex tasks (such as tasks requiring layer 3 capabilities, as opposed to conventional

layer 2 capabilities of an HeNB) can remain, for example, in the PGW (L-GW in LIPA) and/or in the UE, for example.

In an alternative embodiment, the selection module of the home cellular base station is set to send the first correlation ID to the local gateway through the local interface upon each establishment of a bearer providing access to the local IP network, and to delegate to the local gateway the matching of the first correlation ID with a second correlation ID identified by the local gateway during bearer binding of a downlink IP packet, in order to determine the radio bearer on which to transmit the downlink IP packet to the user equipment through the radio interface. The second correlation ID is identified within the local gateway, while the first correlation ID is received in the home cellular base station. This embodiment is advantageous as it allows the local gateway to perform the matching on behalf of the home base station, and then to inform the home base station accordingly. It would be possible to send the first and second correlation IDs to a third party (other than the home cellular base station and the local gateway) and to let the third party carry out the matching. In all variants, it is possible to inform the home cellular base station of the matching by linking the packet to the first correlation ID (as matched). Since the home cellular base station knows the first correlation ID and is able to link it to a particular bearer (the bearer that was created during establishment of the communication at stake), the home cellular base station can send the packet on the proper bearer. It is noted that with GTP, an EPS bearer encompasses different bearers, such as a radio bearer between the UE and the HeNB, the S1 bearer between the eNB and the SGW, and the S5/S8 bearer between the SGW and the PGW (or L-GW in the LIPA case). There is a one to one relationship between each of those bearers. While in state of the art, the HeNB maps only the S1 bearer and the radio bearer, with the invention it is possible to map inside the HeNB the radio bearer, the S1 bearer, and the S5 bearer (thanks to the S5 PGW TEID correlation ID for example). There are different ways to carry out a mapping, for example the radio bearer can be mapped directly to the S5 bearer, or the mapping can be done through the intermediate S1 bearer. All bearers which are associated together can be represented by different items (e.g. bearer IDs) in a line in a table, so that any element in the line can be mapped with any other element in the line (the mapping being based on the fact that the elements belong to the same line).

According to a possible embodiment, the selection module of the home cellular base station is set to check, upon reception of an uplink IP packet on a radio bearer of the radio interface, the presence of the first correlation ID for said radio bearer. The uplink IP packet can then be transmitted through the local interface if the first correlation ID is present, and through the user plane interface if the first correlation ID is

not present. In particular, in the LTE context, it is possible to implement this embodiment in the following manner. During bearer establishment, the MME can provide the user equipment with the packet filters for selecting the bearer, and can provide the HeNB with the correlation ID for the bearer that is being established. When the user equipment sends a packet (it is an uplink packet), it applies the packet filter in order to use the proper bearer. Then the packet is received at the home cellular base station, which maintains a list of bearers and associated first correlation ID (if any). So the home cellular base station can check whether there is a correlation ID for that specific packet (depending on the specific bearer on which it was sent) or not. Accordingly, the home cellular base station can send the packet either to the local gateway or to the Serving Gateway. This embodiment is advantageous since it enables an improved routing of uplink packets.

According to a possible embodiment, the radio bearer can correspond to a GTP bearer on the local gateway, and the first correlation ID comprises a PGW TEID (it can actually be a PGW TEID). A TEID (Tunnel Endpoint Identifier) unambiguously identifies a tunnel endpoint in a receiving GTP-U (GPRS Tunneling Protocol-User) or GTP-C (GPRS Tunneling Protocol-Control) protocol entity. The receiving side of a GTP tunnel typically assigns a TEID value locally for the transmitting side to use. TEID values are typically exchanged between tunnel endpoints using GTP-C messages (or RANAP—Radio Access Network Application Part) in the UTRAN (UMTS terrestrial Radio Access Network). Since we are in LIPA, the PGW (PDN Gateway) is in fact the local gateway collocated with the home cellular base station. The PGW TEID can be sent from the serving gateway to the MME (through S11) and then from the MME to the home cellular base station HeNB through S1-MME, during bearer establishment. Then the PGW TEID can be used as a first correlation ID in the home cellular base station. This is advantageous since constitutes an efficient solution in the context of a protocol (the GTP protocol) that is likely to be the prevalent protocol.

Alternatively, the radio bearer can correspond to a PMIP tunnel on the local gateway, and the first correlation ID can comprise (or even consist of) a PGW GRE key. The EPS architecture defined in 3GPP TS 23.401 (“Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2”) allows for two different protocols on S5: GTP (defined in 3GPP TS 29.274, “GPRS Tunneling Protocol; Stage 3”) and PMIP (defined in 3GPP TS 29.275 “Proxy Mobile IP protocol; Stage 3”). The same protocol choice could be available in LIPA environments. In LTE, with PMIP, the packet filtering (an “intelligent” task) is not carried out in the PGW (unlike in the GTP case) but in the SGW (serving gateway). PMIP does not use the term “bearer” but implements an equivalent mechanism based on encapsulation. Therefore identifying the “bearers” with PMIP (although they are not called the same way) is still required. Accordingly, it is possible to send the PGW GRE from the SGW to MME through S11, and to send the PGW GRE from the MME to the HeNB through S1-MME, in order to use PGW GRE as a correlation ID.

The invention also relates to a control node (such as an MME in LTE context), comprising a PDN management module for checking whether a given packet data network connection is established for local IP access, and upon positive check (i.e. if the connection which establishment is requested is supposed to be a LIPA connection), for sending a first correlation ID to a home cellular base station which is managing this packet data network connection, wherein the first correlation ID is used for enabling a direct user plane path between the home cellular base station and a collocated local

gateway providing access to a local IP network. Such control node is useful to improve the routing of data packets by shortening the path through which they have to travel (no more tromboning).

The invention also relates to a control node comprising an authorization module arranged for receiving an Access Point Name (APN) associated with the packet data network connection and for checking this APN against a list of authorized APNs for the closed subscriber group (CSG) associated with the home cellular base station. This is advantageous since it prevents a user who is authorized to access a given APN from a given CSG (e.g. corporate CSG) to access this APN from a CSG from which he is not authorized to access this APN (e.g. a personal CSG, at home). This is advantageous as it prevents undesired establishment of PDN connections, especially connection from a home user to his employer’s intranet via Local IP Access, while at home. Such attempts will simply fail because Local IP Access to the employer’s intranet is possible only when the user is located inside the corporate CSG.

It is possible to combine the features of both control nodes embodiments above, that is to first check in the control node whether the PDN connection is authorized based on the APN and CSG, and then, if authorized, to check whether it is established for LIPA, and accordingly to send a correlation ID.

The invention also relates to a home subscriber server (HSS) comprising a local IP access management module set to provide a control node (such as an MME in an LTE context) with local IP access configuration information. In particular, the local IP access configuration information may comprise for each CSG, the list of access point names corresponding to the packet data networks accessible via local IP access from said CSG. This home subscriber server can replace state of the art home subscriber servers and work in conjunction with the control nodes according to the invention by supplying them with useful information, in particular APN and CSG information, which is useful in particular in controlling that only proper LIPA connections are established.

The invention also relates to a direct path enablement method comprising a step of obtaining, in a home cellular base station, a first correlation ID for enabling a direct user plane path between the home cellular base station and a local gateway providing access to a local IP network. The first correlation ID is obtained via a control plane interface (such as S1-MME in LTE) of the home cellular base station upon each establishment of a bearer providing access to the local IP network. This improves the routing of data packets.

The method may comprise a step of receiving a downlink IP packet and identifying a second correlation ID by the local gateway during bearer binding of the downlink IP packet, and a step of matching the first correlation ID with the second correlation ID, in order to determine the radio bearer on which to transmit the downlink IP packet to a user equipment through a radio interface of the home cellular base station.

The method may, when the downlink IP packet is received on a local interface of the home cellular base station, comprise carrying out the matching step the home cellular base station. Alternatively, the method may comprise sending the first correlation ID from the home cellular base station to the local gateway through a local interface of the home cellular base station upon each establishment of a bearer providing access to the local IP network, and matching the first correlation ID with the second correlation ID by the local gateway on behalf of the home cellular base station.

The method may comprise a step of receiving an uplink IP packet on a radio bearer of a radio interface of the home cellular base station, a step of checking the presence of the

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first correlation ID for said radio bearer, and a step of transmitting the uplink IP packet through a local interface of the home cellular base station if the first correlation ID is present, and through the user plane interface (such as S1-U) of the home cellular base station if the first correlation ID is not present.

The invention also relates to a PDN management method comprising a step of providing local IP access configuration information from a home subscriber server to a control node, in order to assist the control node in establishment of a packet data network connection.

In particular, the local IP access configuration information may comprise information indicating, for each closed subscriber group, the list of access point names corresponding to the packet data networks accessible via local IP access from said closed subscriber group.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of specific embodiments of the invention, and the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 represents an example of LIPA solution for HeNB using local PDN connection;

FIG. 2 represents an enterprise access from a macrocell versus an enterprise access from a femtocell;

FIG. 3 represents an enterprise access from a macrocell versus an enterprise access from a femtocell, which is an alternative to FIG. 2 with L-SGW;

FIG. 4 represents an error case in which no enterprise access should be allowed from the femtocell;

FIG. 5 represents an optimized routing information with S5-GTP;

FIG. 6 represents an optimized routing information with S5-PMIP;

FIG. 7 represents a User plane protocol stacks with GTP-based S5;

FIG. 8 represents an attach procedure (from 3GPP TS 23.401 “Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2”) with additional parameters in step^o17;

FIG. 9 represents a Dedicated Bearer Activation Procedure (from 3GPP TS 23.401 “Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2”) with additional parameters in step^o4;

FIG. 10 represents a UE requested PDN connectivity (from 3GPP TS 23.401 “Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2”) with additional parameters in step^o7;

FIG. 11 represents an S1-based handover (from 3GPP TS 23.401 “Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2”) with additional parameters in step^o5;

FIG. 12 represents a UE triggered Service Request procedure (from 3GPP TS 23.401 “Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2”) with additional parameters in step^o4;

FIG. 13 represents a Network triggered Service Request procedure (from 3GPP TS 23.401 “Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2”) with additional parameters in step^o2a;

FIG. 14 represents an IKEv2 signaling for establishment of IPsec tunnel between HeNB and SeGW (from 3GPP TS 33.320 v1.0.0 “3GPP Security Aspect of Home NodeB and Home eNodeB”);

FIG. 15 represents a UE Context Modification procedure (from 3GPP TS 36.413 “S1 Application Protocol (S1-AP)”) with additional parameters;

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FIG. 16 represents the equivalent LIPA solution for HNB using local PDN connection;

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown on FIG. 1, when the communication device, which is called User Equipment or simply UE in the LTE context, is actively communicating with the home-based network, the traffic follows a short-cut path, as follows. Uplink packets sent by the UE and received by the HeNB are forwarded directly to the collocated L-GW function, which relays them towards the home-based network. Downlink packets received by the L-GW function are forwarded directly to the collocated HeNB, which relays them on the radio interface towards the UE.

In other words, when the UE is engaged in active communication, there is no circular traffic exchange across the S1-U and S5 reference points, often referred to as traffic “tromboning”.

The upper part of FIG. 5 shows the user-plane information, stored in various EPS nodes according to state of the art, that is used for packet forwarding inside a network with GTP-based S5 (termed S5-GTP). The stored information is described as follows. S1 eNB TEID is a tunnel endpoint identifier used in the GTP-U protocol on S1, assigned by eNB, stored in eNB and SGW. S1 SGW TEID is a tunnel endpoint identifier used in the GTP-U protocol on S1, assigned by SGW, stored in eNB, SGW and MME. S5 SGW TEID is a tunnel endpoint identifier used in the GTP-U protocol on S5, assigned by SGW, stored in SGW and PGW. S5 PGW TEID is a tunnel endpoint identifier used in the GTP-U protocol on S5, assigned by PGW, stored in SGW, PGW and MME.

The lower part of FIG. 5 focuses on the corresponding LIPA scenario, according to an embodiment of the invention, in which the PGW (termed L-GW, for local gateway) becomes collocated with the HeNB. As seen from FIG. 5, state of the art L-GW function and the HeNB function of the collocated node share no information in common.

In order to allow the combined HeNB/L-GW node to identify the mapping between IP packets and corresponding EPS bearers (or E-RABs) it is proposed here to use the S5 PGW TEID parameter as follows.

S5 PGW TEID is known by the MME and is signaled to HeNB across S1-MME as part of the E-RAB context setup in messages like INITIAL CONTEXT SETUP REQUEST or E-RAB SETUP REQUEST, etc. This S5 PGW TEID, abbreviated PGW TEID, can therefore be used as a first correlation ID in an embodiment of the invention.

In a possible embodiment, for downlink packets, the L-GW function performs a usual bearer binding onto EPS bearers, which results in identifying the underlying S5 PGW TEID parameter. The L-GW function then passes (internally) the S5 PGW TEID parameter to the HeNB function along with the IP packet. This is an internal operation in the sense that the L-GW and the HeNB are collocated (so the information does not have to travel through an external network). The interface between the L-GW and the HeNB can however rely on a network protocol, in order (for example) to reuse software bricks developed for a regular PGW which is not collocated with the HeNB.

The HeNB function maps S5 PGW TEID to the corresponding S1 eNB TEID and thus identifies the appropriate E-RAB context and the corresponding Radio Bearer on which to send the packet to the UE.

In a possible embodiment, for uplink packets, the very presence of the S5 PGW TEID parameter in the Radio Bearer

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context indicates that the packet should be forwarded to the L-GW function, rather than over S1-U (user plane interface). The S5 PGW TEID parameter may be passed (internally) along with the IP packet; this could be used by the L-GW function e.g. to perform bearer binding verification.

FIG. 6 considers the same issue with PMIP-based S5 (S5-PMIP) instead of GTP-based S5.

The upper part of FIG. 6 shows the user-plane information, stored in various EPS nodes according to a known architecture, that is used for packet forwarding inside the network with S5-PMIP. The stored information related to S5 is different from the S5-GTP case (bold italics are used in FIG. 6 for PMIP-specific information) and is described as follows:

S5 SGW GRE is the GRE key used in the GRE encapsulated IP packets on S5, assigned by SGW, stored in SGW and in PGW. GRE stands for Generic Routing Encapsulation and is a tunneling protocol that can encapsulate a wide variety of network layer protocol packet types inside IP tunnels. S5 PGW GRE is the GRE key used in the GRE encapsulated IP packets on S5, assigned by PGW, stored in SGW, PGW and MME.

The lower part of FIG. 6 focuses on the corresponding LIPA scenario in which the PGW (termed L-GW) becomes collocated with the HeNB. As seen from FIG. 6, the L-GW function and the HeNB function of the collocated node share no information in common. In order to allow the combined HeNB/L-GW node to identify the mapping between IP packets and corresponding EPS bearers (or E-RABs) it is proposed here to use the S5 PGW GRE parameter as follows.

S5 PGW GRE is known by the MME and is signaled to HeNB across S1-MME as part of the E-RAB context setup in messages such as INITIAL CONTEXT SETUP REQUEST or E-RAB SETUP REQUEST, etc.

For downlink packets, the L-GW function identifies the S5 PGW GRE key corresponding to the local PDN connection for this UE. The L-GW function passes (internally) the S5 PGW GRE parameter to the HeNB function along with the IP packet. The HeNB function maps S5 PGW GRE to the corresponding S1-eNB TEID and thus identifies the appropriate E-RAB context and the corresponding Radio Bearer.

For uplink packets, the very presence of the S5 PGW GRE parameter in the Radio Bearer context indicates that the packet should be forwarded to the L-GW function, rather than over S1-U. The proposed solution for PMIP works only in case there is only one EPS bearer per PDN connection (i.e. the default EPS bearer), which is expected to be the most common LIPA deployment scenario.

Some of the above embodiments or their variants can be integrated in 3GPP standards, for example in the following manner.

FIG. 8 describes an Attach procedure according to 3GPP TS 23.401 ("Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2") modified according to an embodiment of the invention, in which an S5 PGW TEID parameter (for S5-GTP) or an S5 PGW GRE parameter (for S5-PMIP) is added in step 17 of the procedure (i.e. INITIAL CONTEXT SETUP REQUEST message of the S1-AP protocol as specified in 3GPP TS 36.413 "S1 Application Protocol (S1-AP)"). The attach/accept is based on NAS (Non-Access-Stratum, a functional layer in the Wireless Telecom protocol stack between Core Network and User Equipment), i.e. a different protocol (the initial context setup request is based on S1-AP), but is piggy backed on the S1 control message. In step 17, the MME decides to attach the correlation ID only if this is necessary. If the connection which establishment is requested is not a LIPA connection, no correlation ID is needed. In step 11, whether the requested connection is LIPA or not, it may be

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determined that the current CSG is not authorized for LIPA, and should accordingly be denied (as LIPA). It is useful to distinguish the authorization of a LIPA connection from the mere request of a LIPA connection.

FIG. 9 shows a Dedicated Bearer Activation procedure from 3GPP TS 23.401, modified according to an embodiment of the invention, in which an S5 PGW TEID parameter is added in step 4 of the procedure (i.e. BEARER SETUP REQUEST message of the S1-AP protocol). In this case applies only S5-GTP is applicable (no PMIP).

FIG. 10 shows a UE Requested PDN Connectivity procedure from 3GPP 23.401, modified according to an embodiment of the invention, in which an S5 PGW TEID parameter (for S5-GTP) or an S5 PGW GRE parameter (for S5-PMIP) is added in step 7 of the procedure (i.e. BEARER SETUP REQUEST message of the S1-AP protocol).

FIG. 11 shows an S1-based Handover procedure from 3GPP 23.401, modified according to an embodiment of the invention, in which an S5 PGW TEID parameter (for S5-GTP) or an S5 PGW GRE parameter (for S5-PMIP) is added in step 5 of the procedure (i.e. HANDOVER REQUEST message of the S1-AP protocol).

FIG. 12 is the Service Request procedure from 3GPP 23.401, modified according to an embodiment of the invention, in which an S5 PGW TEID parameter (for S5-GTP) or the S5 PGW GRE parameter (for S5-PMIP) is added in step 4 of the procedure (i.e. INITIAL CONTEXT SETUP REQUEST message of the S1-AP protocol).

In order to address the "NAT issue", as shown on FIG. 1, the S1-MME and S1-U reference points can be secured by tunneling inside an IPsec tunnel, established between the HeNB and the SeGW, as specified in 3GPP TS 33.320 v1.0.0 "3GPP Security Aspect of Home NodeB and Home eNodeB". On top of this standardized security mechanism, FIG. 1 proposes that the S5 reference point (between SGW and L-GW) be also secured by tunneling inside the same IPsec tunnel established between the HeNB and the SeGW.

Such an arrangement provides a convenient solution to the L-GW function reachability. Namely, the L-GW function resides in the home network and uses a private IP address. As such, it is not easily reachable from the outside e.g. for signaling transactions initiated by the SGW over S5.

By tunneling S5 inside an IPsec tunnel, the L-GW function becomes reachable via an IP address assigned from the Evolved Packet Core network. In theory, S5 could be tunneled in a different IPsec tunnel than the one used for S1, however, it is advantageous not to do it. Indeed, contrary to the IPsec tunnel for S1 that is up and running permanently, the S5 IPsec tunnel is needed only when the femtocell user needs access to the home-based network. In addition, opening two IPsec tunnels could typically require twice more credentials (different credentials are typically required to authenticate parties through different IPsec tunnels), and could pose scalability issues while increasing complexity. Reusing the same credentials would be conceivable in certain instances but may lower the security, depending on the specific situation.

When using S5-GTP, there are two instances of the GTP-U protocol inside the IPsec tunnel: GTP-U over S1-U and GTP-U over S5. This creates an issue as explained in FIG. 7.

FIG. 7 shows the user plane protocol stacks on S1-U and S5. The GTP-U protocol is transported over UDP and has a well-known UDP port number (port number 2152). If the combined HeNB/L-GW node uses the same IP address for both S1-U and S5, the SGW will be unable to discriminate packets flowing on S1-U from packets flowing on S5.

In order to allow the SGW to discriminate packets flowing on S1-U from packets flowing on S5, a possible embodiment

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of the combined HeNB/L-GW node uses two different addresses: one for the HeNB function and the other one for the L-GW function. For example, an IPsec tunnel between HeNB and SeGW is established, in accordance with 3GPP TS 33.320 v1.0.0 ("3GPP Security Aspect of Home NodeB and Home eNodeB") with the IKEv2 protocol (IETF RFC 4306 "Internet Key Exchange IKEv2 protocol"). According to a possible embodiment, it is proposed to take advantage of the fact that the IKEv2 protocol allows the "initiator" to request multiple "internal IP addresses" via the CFG_REQUEST configuration payload during the initial IKEv2 exchange (see clause 3.15.1 in RFC 4306). In the "initiator" role, the combined HeNB/L-GW node may then request at least two internal IP addresses and assign one to the HeNB and another one to the L-GW functions. Upon setup of the S1-MME interface, the L-GW address is passed to the MME as part of the S1 SETUP REQUEST message defined in 3GPP TS 36.413 ("S1 Application Protocol (S1-AP)"). Alternatively, the L-GW address can be passed in the INITIAL UE MESSAGE message defined in TS 36.413, however this is typically less efficient than sending it in the S1 SETUP REQUEST message.

Alternatively, it is possible to have the HeNB function and the L-GW function share the same IP address, and to configure the TEID assignment logic in the HeNB and the L-GW so that the same TEID is never used simultaneously on both S5 and S1-U. For instance this can be achieved by dividing the TEID value range into two disjoint subranges that are reserved for the HeNB and L-GW function, respectively. The Subranges are preferably contiguous, however any subrange is in principle acceptable, for example one could arbitrarily decide that odd TEIDs are for S5 and even TEIDs are for S1-U, or vice versa. The entity assigning the TEIDs is not the SGW, but the HeNB/L-GW.

When PMIP is used on S5 it is also possible to use two different IP addresses for the HeNB and the L-GW function, but this is not required, because the user plane protocols on S1-U and S5 are different (GTP-U vs GRE encapsulated IP packets), so it is possible to discriminate between the data streams even with a single IP address. Having two IP addresses may however simplify the discrimination between the two protocols.

Some of the above embodiments or their variants can be integrated in 3GPP standards, for example as depicted on FIG. 14, which shows the IKEv2 signaling for establishment of IPsec tunnel between HeNB and SeGW from 3GPP TS 33.320 v1.0.0 ("3GPP Security Aspect of Home NodeB and Home eNodeB"), modified according an embodiment of the invention so that the call flow involves a CFP_REQUEST configuration payload in step 4 of the procedure modified to request two "internal" IP addresses: one for the HeNB and another one for the L-GW functions. Similarly, the CSF_REPLY in step 7 is used by the SeGW to provide the requested IP addresses.

Regarding the "Lawful Intercept issue", a problem lies in the fact that the packets flowing on the short-cut path (in the absence of tromboning) are outside of the reach of the EPC operator.

In order to assist Lawful Intercept it is proposed here, based on EPC request, to send a copy of every IP packet (exchanged across the short-cut path) on S1-U and S5, respectively. The details of this procedure are as follows. Upon establishment of the local PDN connection or at any time afterwards, the MME may request from the HeNB (e.g. in INITIAL CONTEXT SETUP REQUEST message or E-RAB SETUP REQUEST message or UE CONTEXT MODIFICATION REQUEST message) to send a copy of every uplink packet on

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S1-U. Each packet copy is tagged as such via a new flag in the GTP-U encapsulation header, so that it can be consumed at the SGW without being forwarded on S5. Upon establishment of the local PDN connection or at any time afterwards, the MME may request from the L-GW function (e.g. Create Session Request message and Modify Bearer Request with S5-GTP; Proxy Binding Update with S5-PMIP) to send a copy of every downlink packet on S5. Each packet copy is tagged as such via a new flag in the GTP-U or GRE encapsulation header, so that it can be consumed at the SGW without being forwarded on S1-U.

Given the collocation of the HeNB function and L-GW function in the same node, it may suffice to activate the Lawful Intercept feature on the S1-MME side only. The HeNB function in the combined HeNB/L-GW node can then internally request the activation of the Lawful Intercept feature from the collocated L-GW function.

Some of the above embodiments or their variants can be integrated in 3GPP standards, for example as depicted on FIG. 15, which shows the UE Context Modification procedure from 3GPP TS 36.413 ("S1 Application Protocol (S1-AP)"), modified according to an embodiment of the invention so that the flow involves an UE CONTEXT MODIFICATION REQUEST message used to turn the Lawful Intercept feature on or off. The HeNB function in the combined HeNB/L-GW function then internally notifies the L-GW function to activate or deactivate the Lawful Intercept feature.

According to a possible embodiment, a solution is proposed to optimize paging for multiple PDN connections.

Paging may work in the manner proposed in 3GPP S2-095348 "Open issues and solution for SIPTO and LIPA services". In particular, when UE is in Idle mode there is no direct path between L-GW and the HeNB; the downlink packets are consequently sent to the SGW across S5. SGW buffers the downlink packets and triggers the paging procedure via the MME; there are no modifications compared to how paging works in the original EPC architecture described in 3GPP TS 23.401 ("Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2"). When UE responds to paging and enters Connected mode, the direct path between HeNB and L-GW becomes active. All future packet exchanges between HeNB and L-GW follow the direct path, until the UE is moved to Idle mode again.

As illustrated in FIG. 1, the UE may have an established external PDN connection in addition to the LIPA PDN connection. When downlink data arrive at the SGW either from the L-GW or from the external PGW, and the UE is in IDLE mode, the SGW sends a Downlink Data Notification (DDN) message to the MME triggering the latter to start paging the UE.

Presently the DDN message contains no information about the PDN connection on which the downlink data are arriving.

In certain LIPA scenarios it may be beneficial to inform the MME about the underlying PDN connection so that it can make a finer decision.

A possible scenario in which the invention can be advantageous is the following. A User's femtocell is in the same Tracking Area as the surrounding macrocell. Therefore the MME does not always know whether the idle UE is camping on the femtocell or on the macrocell. When downlink data arrive on the LIPA PDN connection and if the user is not allowed to access his home network from a macrocell, the UE should ideally be paged only in the femtocell rather than in the whole Tracking Area. This can be achieved by indicating the PDN connection in the Downlink Data Notification message.

Another possible scenario in which the invention can be advantageous is the following. A femtocell (e.g. in a house)

offers a spotty coverage (e.g. a big house or thick walls). Quite often the user goes out of femtocell coverage in which case the communication is handed over to a macrocell. When in macrocell the user is not allowed to access his home network, but is naturally allowed access to the external PDN connection. Despite the fact the user cannot access his home network, the MME does not release the LIPA PDN connection in order to avoid unnecessary signaling. When re-selecting between femtocell and macrocell coverage, the user sends a Tracking Area Update so that the MME knows whether the idle UE is in femtocell or macrocell coverage.

When downlink data arrive on the local network the MME should not page the UE if the UE is in a macro cell. This can be achieved by indicating the PDN connection in the Downlink Data Notification message.

Some of the above embodiments or their variants can be integrated in 3GPP standards, for example in the manner illustrated on FIG. 13. FIG. 13 is a Network triggered Service Request procedure from 3GPP 23.401, modified according to an embodiment of the invention, in which a Linked EPS Bearer ID (LBI) parameter is added in step 2a of the procedure (i.e. DOWNLINK DATA NOTIFICATION message of the GTPc-v2 protocol defined in 3GPP TS 29.274 "GPRS Tunneling Protocol; Stage 3").

According to an embodiment of the invention, user subscription information stored in the HSS is enhanced by associating the Packet Data Network's (PDN's) Access Point

Name (APN) with the Closed Subscriber Group identifier (CSG ID) of the femtocell(s) from which the user is allowed to establish a PDN connection according to the Local IP Access (LIPA) principles. Specifically, the enhanced user's subscription information allows the Mobility Management Entity (MME) to override the usual PDN Gateway (PGW) selection algorithm with a LIPA-specific Local Gateway (L-GW) selection algorithm.

As seen from Table 5.7.1-1 of 3GPP TS 23.401, which describes the information storage in HSS according to state of the art, the CSG Subscription Data i.e. a list of CSG IDs to which the user can have femtocell access, is specified outside of the PDN subscription contexts. However, in order to avoid error cases like the one described in FIG. 4, it is proposed, in a possible embodiment, that the APN that can be used for LIPA access be explicitly associated with the CSG IDs from which the user can access the corresponding PDN in LIPA fashion.

In a possible embodiment, it is proposed to enhance the user's subscription record in the HSS as indicated in the table below. Namely, for each Access Point Name (APN) that is associated with a Packet Data Network (PDN) that can be accessed via Local IP Access (LIPA) it is proposed to define an optional parameter "CSG IDs for Local IP Access" indicating the CSG IDs of femtocells from which this PDN can be accessed in LIPA fashion. The enhancements are indicated in bold italics.

Field	Description
IMSI	IMSI is the main reference key.
MSISDN	The basic MSISDN of the UE (Presence of MSISDN is optional).
IMEI/IMEISV	International Mobile Equipment Identity - Software Version Number
MME Identity	The Identity of the MME currently serving this MS.
MME Capabilities	Indicates the capabilities of the MME with respect to core functionality e.g. regional access restrictions.
MS PS Purged from EPS	Indicates that the EMM and ESM contexts of the UE are deleted from the MME.
ODB parameters	Indicates that the status of the operator determined barring
Access Restriction	Indicates the access restriction subscription information.
EPS Subscribed Charging Characteristics	The charging characteristics for the MS, e.g. normal, prepaid, flat-rate, and/or hot billing subscription.
Trace Reference	Identifies a record or a collection of records for a particular trace.
Trace Type	Indicates the type of trace, e.g. HSS trace, and/or MME/ Serving GW/PDN GW trace.
OMC Identity	Identifies the OMC that shall receive the trace record(s).
Subscribed-UE-AMBR	The Maximum Aggregated uplink and downlink MBRs to be shared across all Non-GBR bearers according to the subscription of the user.
APN-OI Replacement	Indicates the domain name to replace the APN OI when constructing the PDN GW FQDN upon which to perform DNS queries. This replacement applies for all the APNs in the subscriber's profile.
RFSP Index	An index to specific RRM configuration in the E-UTRAN
URRP-MME	UE Reachability Request Parameter indicating that UE activity notification from MME has been requested by the HSS.
CSG Subscription Data	The CSG Subscription Data is a list of CSG IDs per PLMN and for each CSG ID optionally an associated expiration date which indicates the point in time when the subscription to the CSG ID expires; an absent expiration date indicates unlimited subscription.
Each subscription profile contains one or more PDN subscription contexts:	
Context Identifier	Index of the PDN subscription context.
PDN Address	Indicates subscribed IP address(es).
PDN Type	Indicates the subscribed PDN Type (IPv4, IPv6, IPv4v6)
APN-OI Replacement	APN level APN-OI Replacement which has same role as UE level APN-OI Replacement but with higher priority than UE level APN-OI Replacement. This is an optional parameter.

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Field	Description
Access Point Name (APN)	When available, it shall be used to construct the PDN GW FQDN instead of UE level APN-OI Replacement. A label according to DNS naming conventions describing the access point to the packet data network (or a wildcard) (NOTE 6).
CSG IDs for Local IP Access	For PDNs that can be accessed via Local IP Access (LIPA) this optional parameter indicates the CSG IDs from which such access is possible
EPS subscribed QoS profile	The bearer level QoS parameter values for that APN's default bearer (QCI and ARP) (see clause 4.7.3).
Subscribed-APN-AMBR	The maximum aggregated uplink and downlink MBRs to be shared across all Non-GBR bearers, which are established for this APN.
EPS PDN Subscribed Charging Characteristics	The charging characteristics of this PDN Subscribed context for the MS, e.g. normal, prepaid, flat-rate, and/or hot billing subscription. The charging characteristics is associated with this APN.
VPLMN Address Allowed	Specifies whether for this APN the UE is allowed to use the PDN GW in the domain of the HPLMN only, or additionally the PDN GW in the domain of the VPLMN.
PDN GW identity	The identity of the PDN GW used for this APN. The PDN GW identity may be either an FQDN or an IP address. The PDN GW identity refers to a specific PDN GW.
PDN GW Allocation Type	Indicates whether the PDN GW is statically allocated or dynamically selected by other nodes. A statically allocated PDN GW is not changed during PDN GW selection.
PLMN of PDN GW	Identifies the PLMN in which the dynamically selected PDN GW is located.
Homogenous Support of IMS Over PS Sessions for MME	Indicates whether or not "IMS Voice over PS Sessions" is supported homogeneously in all TAs in the serving MME.
List of APN - PDN GW ID relations (for PDN subscription context with wildcard APN):	
APN - P-GW relation #n	The APN and the identity of the dynamically allocated PDN GW of a PDN connection that is authorised by the PDN subscription context with the wildcard APN. The PDN GW identity may be either an FQDN or an IP address. The PDN GW identity refers to a specific PDN GW.

This is advantageous, since it enables the network (through the HSS), rather than the user equipment, to determine the address of the L-GW, which is a preferred scenario. ⁴⁰

In an alternative embodiment, for each CSG ID in the CSG Subscription Data record that can be used for Local IP Access (LIPA) it is proposed to associate the Access Point name (APN) of the Packet Data network (PDN) that can be accessed in LIPA fashion. This is shown on the table below (enhancements in bold italics).

Field	Description
IMSI	IMSI is the main reference key.
MSISDN	The basic MSISDN of the UE (Presence of MSISDN is optional).
IMEI/IMEISV	International Mobile Equipment Identity - Software Version Number
MME Identity	The Identity of the MME currently serving this MS.
MME Capabilities	Indicates the capabilities of the MME with respect to core functionality e.g. regional access restrictions.
MS PS Purged from EPS	Indicates that the EMM and ESM contexts of the UE are deleted from the MME.
ODB parameters	Indicates that the status of the operator determined barring
Access Restriction	Indicates the access restriction subscription information.
EPS Subscribed Charging Characteristics	The charging characteristics for the MS, e.g. normal, prepaid, flat-rate, and/or hot billing subscription.
Trace Reference	Identifies a record or a collection of records for a particular trace.
Trace Type	Indicates the type of trace, e.g. HSS trace, and/or MME/ Serving GW/PDN GW trace.

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Field	Description
OMC Identity	Identifies the OMC that shall receive the trace record(s).
Subscribed-UE-AMBR	The Maximum Aggregated uplink and downlink MBRs to be shared across all Non-GBR bearers according to the subscription of the user.
APN-OI Replacement	Indicates the domain name to replace the APN OI when constructing the PDN GW FQDN upon which to perform DNS queries. This replacement applies for all the APNs in the subscriber's profile.
RFSP Index	An index to specific RRM configuration in the E-UTRAN
URRP-MME	UE Reachability Request Parameter indicating that UE activity notification from MME has been requested by the HSS.
CSG Subscription Data	The CSG Subscription Data is a list of CSG IDs per PLMN and for each CSG ID optionally an associated expiration date which indicates the point in time when the subscription to the CSG ID expires; an absent expiration date indicates unlimited subscription. For CSG IDs that can be used to access a specific PDN via Local IP Access (LIPA), the CSG ID entry is associated with the Access Point Name (APN) of that PDN.
Each subscription profile contains one or more PDN subscription contexts:	
Context Identifier	Index of the PDN subscription context.
PDN Address	Indicates subscribed IP address(es).
PDN Type	Indicates the subscribed PDN Type (IPv4, IPv6, IPv4v6)
APN-OI Replacement	APN level APN-OI Replacement which has same role as UE level APN-OI Replacement but with higher priority than UE level APN-OI Replacement. This is an optional parameter. When available, it shall be used to construct the PDN GW FQDN instead of UE level APN-OI Replacement.
Access Point Name (APN)	A label according to DNS naming conventions describing the access point to the packet data network (or a wildcard) (NOTE 6).
EPS subscribed QoS profile	The bearer level QoS parameter values for that APN's default bearer (QCI and ARP) (see clause 4.7.3).
Subscribed-APN-AMBR	The maximum aggregated uplink and downlink MBRs to be shared across all Non-GBR bearers, which are established for this APN.
EPS PDN Subscribed Charging Characteristics	The charging characteristics of this PDN Subscribed context for the MS, e.g. normal, prepaid, flat-rate, and/or hot billing subscription. The charging characteristics is associated with this APN.
VPLMN Address Allowed	Specifies whether for this APN the UE is allowed to use the PDN GW in the domain of the HPLMN only, or additionally the PDN GW in the domain of the VPLMN.
PDN GW identity	The identity of the PDN GW used for this APN. The PDN GW identity may be either an FQDN or an IP address. The PDN GW identity refers to a specific PDN GW.
PDN GW Allocation Type	Indicates whether the PDN GW is statically allocated or dynamically selected by other nodes. A statically allocated PDN GW is not changed during PDN GW selection.
PLMN of PDN GW	Identifies the PLMN in which the dynamically selected PDN GW is located.
Homogenous Support of IMS Over PS Sessions for MME	Indicates whether or not "IMS Voice over PS Sessions" is supported homogeneously in all TAs in the serving MME.
List of APN - PDN GW ID relations (for PDN subscription context with wildcard APN):	
APN - P-GW relation #n	The APN and the identity of the dynamically allocated PDN GW of a PDN connection that is authorised by the PDN subscription context with the wildcard APN. The PDN GW identity may be either an FQDN or an IP address. The PDN GW identity refers to a specific PDN GW.

The above enhancements in the user's subscription record stored in the HSS are advantageous, in particular due to their ability to assist the Mobility Management Entity (MME) in deciding whether the user can be granted access to the requested packet data network via Local IP Access (LIPA).

The invention is not limited to the above described exemplary embodiments, and also encompasses many different variants. In particular, most embodiments have been described in the context of E-UTRAN (with a HeNB), but can

be adapted in straight-forward manner to a UTRAN context (with a HNB connecting to the Evolved Packet Core EPC, the EPC network supporting a S4-SGSN node described in 3GPP TS 23.401 "Evolved Packet Core architecture for 3GPP accesses; Stage 2". An example of equivalent LIPA architecture for HNB femtocells is shown on FIG. 16.

The following is the summary of modifications compared to the architecture for HeNB femto cells described in FIG. 1.

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HeNB and MME are replaced by HNB and SGSN, respectively. An extra node referred to as HNB GW (specified in 3GPP TS 25.467 "UTRAN architecture for 3G Home Node B (HNB); Stage 2") is added, and is connected to the HNB and the SGW via the Iuh and the S12 reference point, respectively. The S11 interface is replaced by an S4 interface. The S5 PGW TEID or the S5 PGW GRE parameter is carried within the RAB ASSIGNMENT REQUEST message (defined in 3GPP TS 25.413 "RANAP protocol"). On the Iu interface, the L-GW address is carried within the INITIAL UE MESSAGE message (defined in 3GPP TS 25.413). On the Iuh interface, the L-GW address is carried within the HNB REGISTER REQUEST message (defined in 3GPP TS 25.467). Alternatively (but less efficiently), the L-GW address is carried within the UE REGISTER REQUEST message (defined in 3GPP TS 25.467).

In a possible embodiment, for the purpose of Lawful Intercept, a copy of each uplink IP packet is forwarded across Iuh/S12. The user plane protocol being the same as in the S1-U case (i.e. GTP-U), the new tag in the GTP-U encapsulation described earlier is exactly the same. UE SPECIFIC INFORMATION INDICATION message (defined in 3GPP TS 25.413) can be used (instead of the UE CONTEXT MODIFICATION REQUEST message) to turn the Lawful Intercept feature on or off.

More generally, the invention is applicable to other wireless technologies such as WCDMA, GSM, CDMA2000, TD-SCDMA, or WiMAX. The vocabulary used in the described embodiment is the conventional vocabulary in the context of LTE, however other standards use a different terminology. The invention is not limited to LTE by the use of LTE vocabulary. For example the GSM standard refers to "mobile stations" comprising a "mobile equipment" (typically a cell phone) equipped with a SIM card. Despite the fact that the described embodiments commonly refer to a "user equipment", any communication device compliant with the requirement laid out in relation with said embodiments is appropriate, even a GSM compliant communication device.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for providing Local IP Access (LIPA), the method comprising:

for uplink data transmission, if a correlation identification (ID) is included in a request message received from a mobility management entity (MME), enabling, by an apparatus having a base station collocated with a local gateway (L-GW) providing a direct user plane path between the base station and the L-GW, the direct user plane path by using the correlation ID, wherein the apparatus uses an interface configured at the L-GW, the interface comprising an S5 interface, the correlation ID comprising a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)

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Tunneling Protocol (GTP) based endpoint identifier of the S5 interface or a Generic Routing Encapsulation (GRE) key of the S5 interface configured between the local gateway and the S-GW; and
for downlink data transmission, if the base station establishes a secure link with a security gateway (SeGW) and the L-GW uses the same secure link with the SeGW, discriminating, by the apparatus, at least one downlink packet delivered through the secure link to the base station and the L-GW by using different IP address, the different IP address being allocated to the base station and the L-GW.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the request message is used for creating the bearer with a mobile terminal.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the request message comprises a bearer setup request message.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the bearer setup request message comprises a Packet Data Network (PDN) connectivity Accept message.

5. An apparatus in a communication system, comprising:
a local gateway (L-GW) configured for providing Local IP Access (LIPA);
a base station collocated with the L-GW; and
a processor coupled to the L-GW and the base station, the processor configured:

for uplink data transmission, if a correlation identification (ID) is included in a request message received from a mobility management entity (MME), enabling a direct user plane path between the base station and the L-GW by using the correlation ID, wherein the apparatus uses an interface configured at the L-GW, wherein the interface comprises an S5 interface, wherein the correlation ID comprises a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) Tunneling Protocol (GTP) based endpoint identifier of the S5 interface or a Generic Routing Encapsulation (GRE) key of the S5 interface; and

for downlink data transmission, if the base station establishes a secure link with a security gateway (SeGW) and the L-GW uses the same secure link with the SeGW, discriminate at least one downlink packet delivered through the secure link to the base station and the L-GW by using different IP address, wherein the different IP address are allocated to the base station and the L-GW.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the request message is used for creating the bearer with a mobile terminal.

7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the request message comprises a bearer setup request message.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the bearer setup request message comprises a Packet Data Network (PDN) connectivity Accept message.

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